

NAEP Questions Tool Tutorial

The **NAEP Questions Tool** provides educators, researchers, parents, and students with access to released questions from NAEP assessments in nearly all subject areas, dating from 1990.

The questions are presented as

- examples of what NAEP asks students in grades 4, 8, and 12;
- examples of questions that probe students' knowledge of specific content areas; and
- a way to examine student performance on a specific question by race/ethnicity, gender, and other student groupings across the nation and, for mathematics, reading, science, and writing.

NAEP has released over 1,000 questions from past assessments to the public, and will continue to release more after each assessment.

How to Access

The direct URL to NAEP Questions is <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/itmrls> or click **NAEP Questions** on the Nation's Report Card home page.

How do I search for specific questions?

1. First, click on **Search Options** on the first screen.

Search Options

... to begin using the NAEP Questions Tool.

2. Next, select your question search option and click on **Search** or **Continue**. Note that there are several ways to search for questions.

The screenshot displays the NAEP Questions Tool search interface with three distinct search options:

- Quick Search:** Features two dropdown menus for "Select a subject" and "Select a grade (default to All)" (labeled as optional), followed by a "Search" button.
- Advanced Search:** Includes a "Select a subject" dropdown menu and a "Continue..." button. A descriptive text states: "Within a subject, search for questions by grade, content classification, question type, difficulty, and other subject-specific variables."
- Search by Block:** Features two dropdown menus for "Select a subject" and "Select a grade (default to All)" (labeled as optional), followed by a "Continue..." button. A descriptive text states: "Within a subject, search for a specific 'block' or 'booklet' of questions that were administered to students who participated in the NAEP assessment."

3. Questions that match your search criteria will be listed on the next screen. You can then click on any question to view it.

New Search

To Print Folder: 6 items from Writing Add All | Remove All

11 results returned for:
 Subject: Writing [Subject Info](#) Grade: All

	Subject	Grade	Description	Block	No.	In Folder
1	Writing	4	Write a story about a castle.	1998-4W6	01	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Writing	4	Describe a favorite object.	1998-4W17	01	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Writing	4	Convince a friend to become visible.	1998-4W18	01	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Writing	8	Write a story about a visitor from space.	1998-8W9	01	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Writing	8	Design an educational TV show.	1998-8W15	01	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Writing	8	Vandalism (50-minute item).	1998-8W18	01	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Writing	8	Debate lengthening the school year.	1998-8W19	01	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Writing	12	Write a story about a special object.	1998-12W5	01	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Writing	12	Give writing advice to a younger student.	1998-12W10	01	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Writing	12	Vandalism (50-minute item).	1998-12W16	01	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Writing	12	Debate the importance of voting.	1998-12W21	01	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

* The 1998 NAEP Writing Assessment included some 50-minute questions at grades 8 and 12. These questions were not included in the NAEP writing scale.

Some NAEP questions are given to students at more than one grade level. These cross-grade questions are referred to as, for example, 4(8) or 8(4), where the first number refers to the focal grade—the grade level/assessment from which the question and related material was drawn—and the second number (the number in parentheses) refers to the other grade level in which the question was also given.

Three Ways to Search for Questions

There are three ways to search for questions:

- quick search,
- advanced search, or
- search by block.

Quick Search

Select a subject and grade by using the pull-down menus.

Quick Search

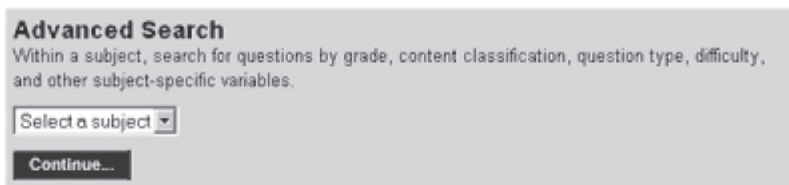
Select a subject Select a grade (default to All) (optional)

Search

You must choose a subject but, if you do not choose a grade, you will view questions from all grades. When you have chosen a subject or subject and grade, click on **Search**.

Advanced Search

Within a subject, you can search for questions by grade, content classification, question type, difficulty, and other subject-specific variables using **Advanced Search**. First, you must choose a subject and click on **Continue**.



Advanced Search
Within a subject, search for questions by grade, content classification, question type, difficulty, and other subject-specific variables.

Select a subject ▾

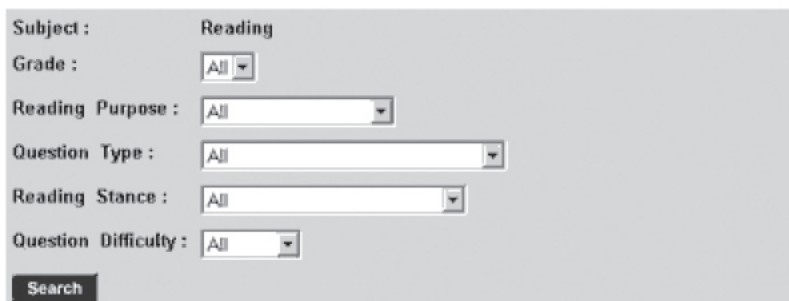
Continue...

Next, select your advanced search criteria. Note that options will differ depending on the subjects you choose.

Question difficulty is determined as follows: for multiple-choice and dichotomously scored (right-wrong) items, easy questions are those with scores greater than 60 percent, medium questions are those with scores greater than or equal to 40 percent and less than 60 percent, and hard questions are those with scores less than 40 percent. For constructed-response questions, separate weights are assigned to each score category.

When you are finished, click on **Search**.

Advanced Search Options



Subject : Reading

Grade : All ▾

Reading Purpose : All ▾

Question Type : All ▾

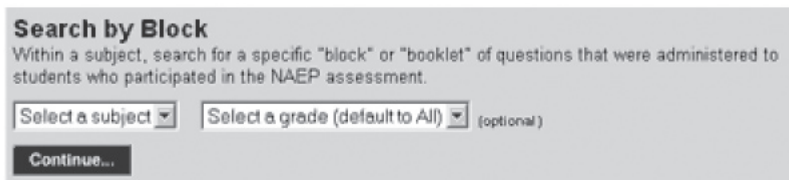
Reading Stance : All ▾

Question Difficulty : All ▾

Search

Search by Block

If you have a specific “block” of questions you want to view (a “block” refers to the group of questions administered to students in a test booklet), you may use this search feature.



Search by Block
Within a subject, search for a specific “block” or “booklet” of questions that were administered to students who participated in the NAEP assessment.

Select a subject ▾ Select a grade (default to All) ▾ (optional)

Continue...

How do I print a question or group of questions?

The NAEP Questions Tool allows users to customize and print NAEP questions. After selecting and saving questions in the **Print Folder**, you can change the question order, delete questions and decide what information you wish to print along with the questions (e.g., scoring guides, content classifications).

Selecting Questions

Select questions to be added to the print document by clicking on the check boxes in the **In Folder** column on the **Search Results** screen. A red check mark appears on each selected check box.

Note: As the check boxes are marked, the number of items in the **Print Folder** is NOT updated. To update the displayed information, click on **To Print Folder** next to the Print Folder icon.

New Search

📁 To Print Folder: 6 items from Writing Add All Questions | Remove All Questions

11 results returned

Subject: Writing [Subject Info] Grade: All

	Subject	Grade	Description	Year/Block	No.	In Folder
1	Writing	4	Write a story about a castle	1998-4W5	01	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2	Writing	4	Describe a favorite object	1998-4W17	01	<input type="checkbox"/>
3	Writing	4	Convince a friend to become visible	1998-4W18	01	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4	Writing	8	Write a story about a visitor from space	1998-8W9	01	<input type="checkbox"/>
5	Writing	8	Design an educational TV show	1998-8W15	01	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6	Writing	8	Vandalism (50-minute item)	1998-8W18	01	<input type="checkbox"/>
7	Writing	8	Debate lengthening the school year	1998-8W19	01	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	Writing	12	Write a story about a special object	1998-12W5	01	<input type="checkbox"/>
9	Writing	12	Give writing advice to a younger student	1998-12W16	01	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10	Writing	12	Vandalism (50-minute item)	1998-12W16	01	<input type="checkbox"/>
11	Writing	12	Debate the importance of voting	1998-12W21	01	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

* The 1998 NAEP Writing Assessment included some 50-minute questions at grades 8 and 12. These questions were not included in the NAEP writing scale.

Adding All Questions to the Print Folder

Clicking on the **Add All Questions** link on the **Search Results** page automatically adds all the displayed questions to the Print Folder.

Removing All Questions from the Print Folder

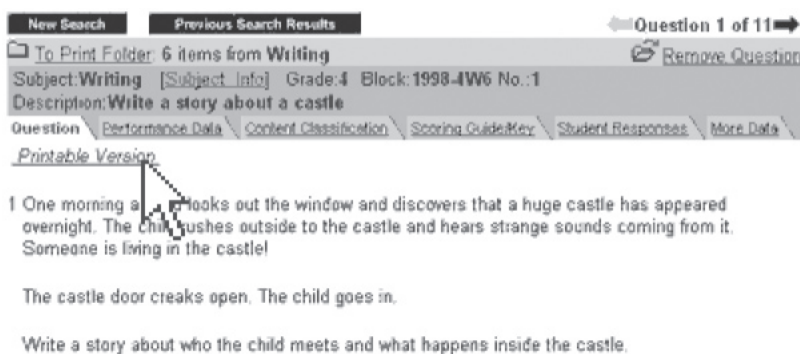
Clicking on the **Remove All Questions** link on the **Search Results** page automatically removes all selected questions from the **Print Folder**.

Printing Individual Questions Directly

Questions are displayed as links on the **Search Options** page. Clicking on a specified question (link) displays the entire question. Clicking on the **Printable Version** link takes you to a screen that has only the question and does not include the NAEP Questions Tool interface. From this page you can print using the browser's print icon.

Adding/Removing Individual Questions to/from the Print Document

You can add or remove questions you are viewing by clicking on the **Add Question/Remove Question** icon on the upper right of the screen. As you add or remove questions, the number of questions in your print folder will be automatically updated.



Printing from the Print Folder

The selected questions are put into the **Print Folder** as one document. Clicking on the **Print Folder** link or icon brings you to a page where you have a number of options for formatting your print document. In the Print Options area, you can select items to include with your questions in the print document (for example, scoring guides/keys, performance data or content classification information). Questions are automatically selected on this page. Once you've selected what you would like to be included in your document, you can click **Assemble Document**. Note: In the print document, underlined text represents text that has been substituted for items that were originally part of a set. For the exact wording of items that were given to students, please refer to the text as represented with the tool itself.

Editing the Print Document

The order in which questions appear can be rearranged in the **Edit** section, so that easy, medium, and hard questions are arranged in an appropriate order. For instance, a teacher might want the easier questions to appear first, followed by medium, then harder questions. A question is rearranged by selecting one question then using either the **Move Up** or **Move Down** arrows to the right to move it accordingly. The change can either be retained by clicking on **Save** or be rejected by clicking on **Restore**. You can also preview a question by clicking on the **View Question** button. A question can be deleted from your document by clicking on **Delete Question**.

Print Folder

New Search Previous Search Results

6 items

Subject: **Writing**

You have selected the questions below to be printed. You can choose the information you want included in the "Print Options" section. You can rearrange and delete questions in the "Edit Options" section. When you are ready to view the printable selection of questions, click the **SAVE** button to save your changes, then click on the **Assemble Document** button. You can then print, copy or download the document you create. **Return to this page by using your browser's back button.**

PRINT OPTIONS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Questions	<input type="checkbox"/> Performance Data
<input type="checkbox"/> Scoring Guides/Keys	<input type="checkbox"/> Content Classifications
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Responses	

Assemble Document

You can delete questions, change question order and preview any question in this section. When you are finished making your edit selections, Click the **SAVE** button to update you changes. If you have made an mistake, click the **RESTORE** to recover the previously saved list.

EDIT OPTIONS

Select an item:

1. Write a story about a castle (Grade 4 Medium)
2. Convince a friend to become visible (Grade 4 Medium)
3. Design an educational TV show (Grade 8 Medium)
4. Debate lengthening the school year (Grade 8 Medium)
5. Give writing advice to a younger student (Grade 12 Medium)
6. Debate the importance of voting (Grade 12 Medium)

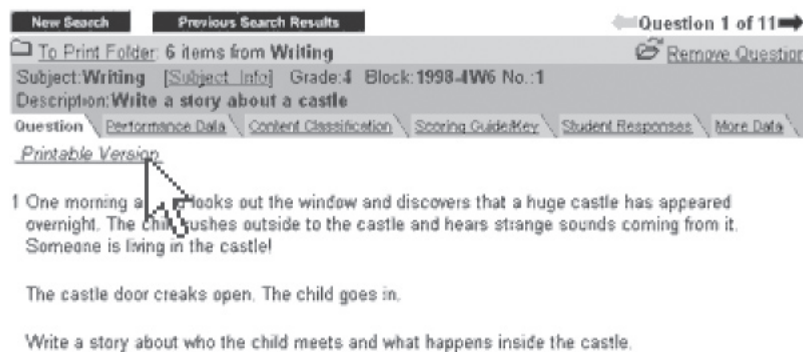
Move Up
Move Down
View Question
Delete Question
Save
Restore

Clicking on **Assemble Document** creates a printable file. From here, you can print using the browser's print icon or save to disk. You may also use copy/paste to import part or all of the print document into any HTML-aware editor.

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What information can I get about each question?

When you select a question to view, a screen similar to the one below will be displayed.



Information related to a selected question is available by clicking the tabs at the top of the screen. This information includes:

Question - Shows the printable version of the question. When the screen first displays, the question will display. Click on this tab to redisplay the question after another choice has been selected.

Performance Data - Shows information about how students scored on the question.

Content Classification - Shows information about how the question relates to the subject area framework. This includes a description of the content domain—what is being assessed—and the cognitive skills within that domain.

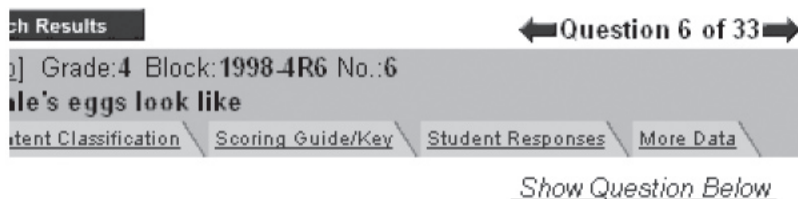
Scoring Guide/Key - Shows the scoring guide or rubric for constructed-response questions and the correct answer for multiple-choice questions.

Student Responses - Shows actual student responses to the question for each score level.

More Data - Displays additional data for each item, including how subgroups (gender, race/ethnicity, parents' highest level of education, type of school, region of the country, type of location, Title I participation, National School Lunch Program and achievement level) performed on this question. Provides a link to the NAEP Data Tool, where you can search for more specific national and state NAEP data.

Question - When the screen first appears, the question will be displayed and the **Question** tab will be highlighted. When you are viewing related information other than the question itself, click on this tab to re-display the question.

Links within the question - The question and related graphics or text passages may not fit on the screen area without scrolling. To help you view the different parts of the question, we have added several links above the question on the right side of the screen.



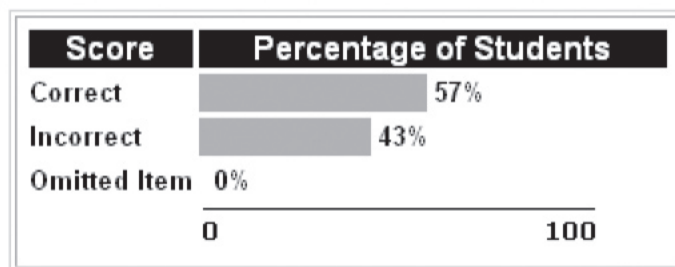
The names of the links may change depending on the type of question and the subject area.

Note that the questions have been formatted to display on the screen and may not be presented in the same way as they were to the student. You can view the questions as they were presented to the student by printing a block of questions in its PDF form.

Performance Data - Shows information about how students scored on the question.

For Multiple-Choice Questions - Shows the percentage of students who answered the question incorrectly or correctly, or who omitted the item.

1998 National Performance Results

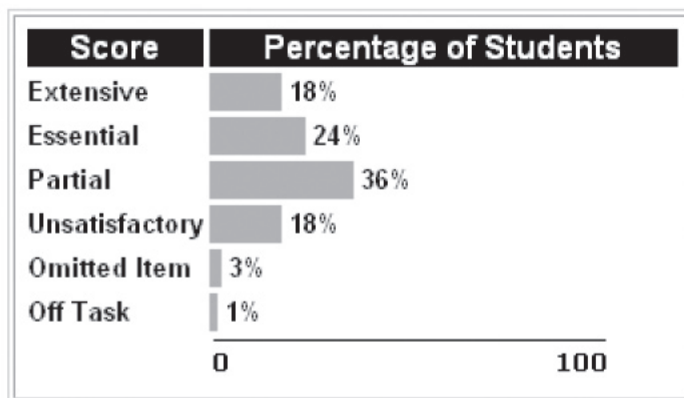


Note:

- These results are for public and nonpublic school students.
- Percentage may not add to 100 due to rounding.

For Constructed-Response Questions - Shows the percentage of students who scored at each score level, or who omitted the question or were off-task.

1998 National Performance Results

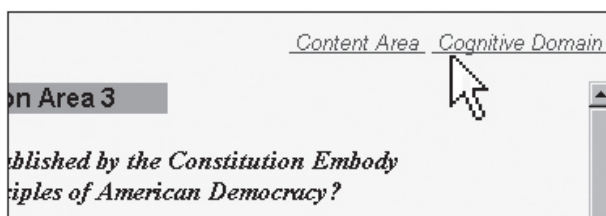


Note:

- These results are for public and nonpublic school students.
- Percentage may not add to 100 due to rounding.

The scoring criteria will vary depending on the subject and type of question. Click on **Scoring Guide/Key** to see a description of the score levels used for each question.

Content Classification - Shows information about how the question relates to the subject area framework. This includes a description of the content domain—what is being assessed—and the *cognitive skills* within that domain.




Use the links on the upper right of the Content Classification screen to move between the sections of the screen. Note that the name of the links will vary depending on subject and question type.

For a more extensive description of the subject area you have chosen, click on **Subject Info** at the top of the screen next to the subject name.

Scoring Guide/Key - Shows information about how the question was scored.

For Multiple-Choice Questions - Shows the “key” or correct answer for the question.

Key	
In the poem "Finding a Lucky Number," Gary Soto contrasts	
A) dogs and squirrels	
 B) present youth and future aging	
C) Indian summer and the coming of winter	
D) eating candy and a healthy diet	

For Constructed-Response Questions - Shows the scoring guide used to determine the score for the student's answer.

Scoring Guide
Score & Description
Evidence of Full Comprehension These responses support an opinion with a clear explanation between the title and the poem. They summarize or articulate the poem and tell whether or not it relates to the title. Or, the title is a bad one and offer an explanation which is consistent interpretation of the poem.
Evidence of Partial or Surface Comprehension These responses support an opinion with a vague explanation

Note that the scoring criteria will vary depending on the subject and type of question.

Student Responses - Shows actual student responses to the question for each score level.

Acceptable - Student Response
6. Describe the appearance of a female blue crab that is carrying
The egg mass sometimes looks
a orange-brown sponge and c
up to 1 million eggs and the
has pinchers.

Use the scroll bar to move between the sections of the screen. Note that student responses are available only for constructed-response questions.

In some subjects, you will find a **Scorer's Commentary** button after the student responses. Each subject offers a different model for the scorer's commentary—some provide one for every response, others for both responses. The scorer's commentary gives you additional information on why the response received the score that it did and often refers back to the scoring guide.

More Data - Shows information about how subgroups of students performed on the question. This information enables you to see comparisons between the subgroups. From this screen you can also link to the NAEP Data Tool (<http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/naepdata>).

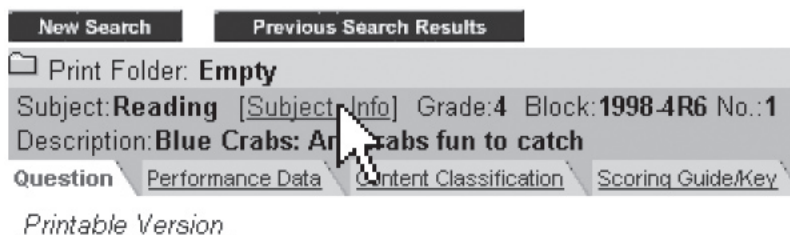
NAEP 1998 National Reading Summary Data Tables for Grade 4 Question Response Percentages (Standard Errors In Parentheses)				
NAEP ID: R012206F				
	N	UNACCEPT	ACCEPT	OMIT
-- TOTAL --	1679	58 (1.5)	33 (1.3)	9 (0.8)
GENDER				
MALE	813	58 (2.4)	33 (2.0)	10 (1.3)
FEMALE	866	59 (1.8)	33 (1.5)	9 (1.0)
RACE/ETHNICITY				
WHITE	988	53 (1.7)	40 (1.6)	7 (0.8)
BLACK	281	72 (3.9)	13 (2.5)	15 (3.0)
HISPANIC	313	73 (3.3)	16 (2.2)	12 (2.2)
ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER	61	**** (****)	**** (****)	**** (****)
AMERICAN INDIAN	32	**** (****)	**** (****)	**** (****)
PARENTS' HIGHEST LEVEL OF EDUCATION				
LESS THAN H.S.	47	**** (****)	**** (****)	**** (****)
GRADUATED H.S.	1632	59 (1.6)	33 (1.5)	9 (0.8)

Information about the performance of the following subgroups is included on the More Data screen:

- Gender
- Race/Ethnicity
- Parents' Highest Level of Education
- Type of School
- Region of the Country
- Type of Location
- Title I Participation
- National School Lunch Program
- Achievement Level

Where can I find more information about the subjects NAEP assesses?

You can find information about each subject by clicking on Subject Info at the top of the screen next to the subject name.



This leads you to more detailed information about NAEP procedures, including a description of frameworks, assessment instruments, scoring, school and student samples for that subject, NAEP reports, and interpreting NAEP results.

You can find even more information about each subject by choosing a subject on the NAEP home page.

Additional Help

For more help with features on the NAEP website, click **Help** in the banner.

For additional help, write to us via **Contact Us**, or e-mail Sherran.Osborne@ed.gov.